Salute to the Unicorn

Dwight Cooke

Also by Dwight Cooke

Plain Mr. President
There Is No Asia
Instant History
Just Passing Through
In Freedom Born
The Mot the Merrier

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Salute to the UNICORN

Dwight Cooke

All my life, working, playing, reading, listening, I've grabbed the nearest scrap of paper and scribbled down phrases which rang a bell for me. Usually in the middle of something else, I had no time to note my sources accurately. So my apologies to anyone not given full credit for a mot.

During the same long years, in between his own professional writings, Whitin was slowly weaving together some magnificent poems and sonnets steeped in truth and love.

Here, for our friends, are some of our joint efforts. We hope these pages will bring you a few surprises, a little wisdom, a needed laugh, and some moments of true beauty.

In Memoriam

Whitin Badger

1906–1992

But these pages have another purpose.
They are a salute to the Unicorn.
That medieval symbol for Last Hope.
The Unicorn who
"waits so patiently in a darkening wood"
For each of us
When our need becomes great enough.
The Unicorn who knows so well:

The loving ones
Are very few
In the short time
Left to you
No matter where
Or why
Or how
Love them
Love them quickly—
Now

Whitin Badger

Absence

How like the stillness in my lonely room
Become my days since you are gone away,
The tireless clock turns round and yet the bloom
Lies permanent on flowers. The time of day
Is dusk no matter where the sun may be.
Some memory of your passing stirs the air,
Dust falls on velvet and mahogany,
And footsteps long since gone descend the stair.
All of the beauty that our world has known,
All knowledge, passion, and the worth of gold,
And spirits that from eye to eye have flown
The soul's errand—I'd give them all to hold,
Just for an instant and without demands,
Your warm and loving hands within my hands.

Whitin Badger

Absurdity

A statement or belief manifestly inconsistent with one's own belief.

Ambrose Bierce

Accuracy

The death of conversation.

Cooke

Advice

Like snow, the softer it falls, the deeper it sinks into the mind.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge

What the wise don't need and the fools won't heed.

Spanish proverb

Advice (cont.)

It is not the arrival, it is the journey that matters.

Montaigne

You can't get alterations on a dress you haven't bought.

Guys and Dolls

If you're falling, dive.

Cooke

You can eat an elephant if you cut him up into small enough pieces.

Russian proverb

The true way of softening one's troubles is to solace those of others.

Francoise de Maintenon

No bird soars too high if he soars with his own wings.

William Blake

The winter proveth the evergreen.

Age

When the younger
Chase the older
Life is golder
For the older

When the older
Chase the younger
Be it love
Or be it hunger
For the younger
Can be harassing
For them both
Embarrassing

Whitin Badger

There are three stages of age: youth, middle age, and "how well you look."

Eisenhower

Age is the process wherein the heart is shrunk and the spleen enlarged.

Cooke

You throw twice as hard and the ball gets there half as fast.

Lefty Gomez

The trick is growing up without growing old.

Casey Stengel

Old age is one year older than you are.

Cooke

Being young is a fault which improves daily.

Swedish proverb

Age is the victory of mind over matter: if you don't mind, it doesn't matter.

"Murder She Wrote"

Old age is a shipwreck.

De Gaulle

He who laughs at the young, laughs at himself; he who laughs at the old, cries for himself.

Cooke

Alimony

Single blessedness with double indemnity.

Bugs Baer

America

America achieved the impossible by jumping from barbarism to decadence without passing through civilization.

Winston Churchill

The interesting and inspiring thing about America is that she asks for nothing for herself except what she has a right to ask for humanity itself.

Woodrow Wilson

The American civilization is a mixture of altruism and high explosives.

Irving Babbitt

Wherever you go in the world, you meet the American Revolution coming back.

Shriver

The puritan came to America to worship God according to his own conscience and to see no one else did the same.

Don Marquis

English nanny to children, at Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum in London: "And that is George Washington, the founder of America. Some say, of course, that he should not have done it."

There's nothing wrong with our foreign policy; it's just that the rest of the world isn't made to fit it.

Rosebud Texas News

An American is a person who does things because they haven't been done before.

Mark Twain

Anger

The wind which blows out the lamp of the mind.

Robert Ingersoll

Applause

The echo of a platitude.

Bierce

Art

Man's revolt against nature.

Malraux

An instant arrested in eternity.

J.G. Huneker

Our gallant attempt to teach Nature her proper place.

Wilde

The artist does not see things as they are, but as he is.

Alfred Tunnelle

God created Italy from designs by Michelangelo.

Mark Twain

Art requires the long goosing finger of God.

Cooke

It is not the statue I look at but the air around it.

Henry Moore

The artistic temperament is a disease that afflicts amateurs.

G.K. Chesterton

The only universal art form is the horse-opera.

Cooke

Art is long and the talk about it is longer.

Lodi

One advantage of modern art is that you can answer the questions the children ask about the nudes.

Franklin P. Jones

Art (cont.)

Art is the ability to find the eternal in the accidental.

Cooke

Art is the lie that makes us see truth.

Picasso

Art is a call on the horn of a hunter lost in the great woods.

Baudelaire

Atheist

A man with no invisible means of support.

John Buchan

Atheism

Truth for those who cannot bear the reality of God.

"Jumpers"

Autumn

The first red leaf
Hangs trembling
On the bough
And we below
Gaze upward
Sighing

Autumn pain
Lies deep
Within the heart
Too sweet
For any sadness
But remembering

Whitin Badger

Bachelors

Amateurs in life.

Woodrow Wilson

A bachelor never quite gets over the idea that he is a thing of beauty and a boy forever.

Helen Rowland

Bad Taste

The one impregnable position in aesthetics.

Cooke

Baseball

I couldn't see well enough to play baseball so they made me the umpire.

Harry Truman

When I get through managing, I'm gonna open a kindergarten.

Mickey Mantle

It's not a sport. The players don't even get tired.

French newspaper review

A knuckle ball is just a curved ball that doesn't give a damn.

Jimmy Cannon

Trying to sneak a pitch past Hank Aaron was like sneaking a lamb chop past a wolf.

Joe Adcock

Larry Bowa was a legend in his own mind.

Greg Gros

Baseball (cont.)

Yogi Berra—He looks the way he always does: like a taxi with the doors open.

Roy Campanella

—He'd fall in a sewer and come up with a gold watch.

Casey Stengel

Babe Ruth—He wasn't born; he fell out of a tree.

Dizzy Dean

Beauty

The sun sinks slowly
Red gold across lilac waters
The hills are somber blue
And cedars on the sand bar turn black
Beneath the pale wraith of a sickle moon
In silvery calm a star shines deep
Within the satin swelling
Of the gleaming bay
Softly the dark comes down
A bob-white calls
Your eyes are full of tears

Whitin Badger

The promise of happiness.

Stendhal

Too wonderful to take seriously.

Cooke

Bigot

Anyone who is obstinately and zealously attached to an opinion you do not entertain.

Bierce

Blunder

Worse than a crime.

French proverb

Bore

A man who, when you ask him how he is, tells you.

Cooke

Bridge

When did you learn to play bridge? I know it was yesterday, but what *time* yesterday!

George S. Kaufman

California

The tumbleweed culture.

Cooke

Canadian

A man who knows how to make love in a canoe.

Berton

Ceremony

The smoke of friendship.

Chinese proverb

Chance

The pseudonym God used when he chose not to sign his work.

Anatole France

Character

Destiny.
Heraclitus

What you are in the dark.
Dwight Moody

Charity

Criticism of God.
Cooke

Chic

The last word in bad taste.
Cooke

Chicken Little

When will the sky stop falling?
O Betelgeuse!
O Mars!
Will life be less appalling
When stars are sold in jars?

When will the sky stop falling?
O Pentagon!
O Proust!
Will remembrance be less galling?
And grapes of wrath dejuiced?
Whitin Badger

Children

To be a successful father, there is one absolute rule: when you have a kid, don't look at it for the first two years.
Ernest Hemingway

The best way to keep children at home is to make the home pleasant and sympathetic—and let the air out of the tires.

Dorothy Parker

Parents were invented to make children happy by giving them something to ignore.

Ogden Nash

I have found the best way to give advice to your children is to find out what they want and then advise them to do it.

Harry Truman

Christmas

I like Christmas. If I were a Christmas tree, I'd shake my ornaments and run away.

four year old boy

Civilization

The attempt to reduce force to the last resort.

Ortega y Gasset

The race between education and catastrophe.

H.G. Wells

Paralysis.

Gauguin

When a people has common glories in the past and a common will in the present.

Renan

When Gandhi was asked, "What do you think of Western civilization," he replied, "I think it would be a good idea."

Complacency

The act of sitting back on your artistic laurels.

Cooke

Conceit

The rooster believes the sun is rising to hear him crow.

George Eliot

The impregnable assurance of the completely untalented.

Cooke

Conclusions

People who jump to conclusions often frighten the best ones away.

Hugh Allen

Confidence

The calm confidence of a Christian with four aces.

Mark Twain

Conscience

The inner voice that tells you someone may be watching.

Horace Walpole

What makes a boy tell his mother before his sister does.

F.P. Jones

Conservative

A man who was a liberal when he was young and has not changed his mind.

Arthur Holcomb

A man too cowardly to fight and too fat to run.

Elbert Hubbard

Conservatism is the policy of consulting your grandmother when in doubt.

Contract

A verbal contract is not worth the paper it's written on.

Sam Goldwyn

Conversation

The art of suggestion.

Cooke

How can I know what I think 'til I see what I say.

He is articulate with the years of long evasion.

Cooke

The West says "because of"; Arabs say "and then."

Arab proverb

Conviction

What you have when you know what the boss thinks.

Courage

In velvet dark
And silken rain
The poignant past
Comes back
Again

To ease the heart
To lull the mind
Pray the future
Will be kind

The brave are those
Who see the end
And still
Go on

Whitin Badger

Courage (cont.)

Will power.

Lord Moran

A hero is no braver than an ordinary man, but he is brave five minutes longer.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Crime

Stupidity plus cupidity.

Cooke

Crisis

Danger plus opportunity.

Chinese ideograph

Critics

Critics are the eunuchs in the harem. They're there every night; they see it done every night; they see how it should be done every night. But they can't do it themselves.

Brendan Behan

Crossroads

When you come to one, take it!

Yogi Berra

Curiosity

The crowbar of creation.

Cooke

Cynic

A realist you don't agree with.

Cooke

A man who knows the cost of everything and the value of nothing.

Oscar Wilde

Death

Forever and forever falls the snow,
Forever on dim woodland paths the sun
Slants softly down through whispering leaves, and run
The rivers, silvering fast and darkening slow;
And we, who now must part forever, know
That all our days are gathered into one.
We may, now all the wondering is done,
Touch lips and hands, still mind and heart, and go
Without a backward look, for we will be
Forever near, however far away.
And like the morning sun and evening star
In firmament secure eternally.
But in the dawn and at the end of day,
How far away is near . . . how near is far . . .

Whitin Badger

I must go in. The fog is rising.

Emily Dickinson

Death is an exit with a thousand doors.

John Webster

The goal of life.

Freud

We must adjourn this meeting to another place.

Adam Smith

"Why should I see her? She will only want to give me a message for Albert."

Disraeli (when Queen Victoria wanted to visit his deathbed)

Death (cont.)

I die hard but I am not afraid to go.

George Washington

It's not that I'm afraid of dying; it's just that I don't want to be around when it happens.

Woody Allen

Shrouds are made without pockets.

Yiddish saying

Let us cross over and rest under the trees.

Stonewall Jackson

Only two things in life are certain—death and taxes; what the taxpayer resents is that they do not come in that order.

Will Rogers

Inscription on a British tombstone: "I told you I was sick!"

Let us endeavor to live so that when we come to die, even the undertaker will be sorry.

Mark Twain

"We have loved the stars too fondly to be fearful of the night."

on tombstone of two University of Pittsburgh astronomers

Decadence

The corruption you can't afford.

John Locke

Decision

If you come to a fork in the road, take it!

Yogi Berra

Fake it 'til you make it.

Cooke

Delay

Never do today what you can put off until tomorrow. Delay may give clearer light as to what is best to be done.

Aaron Burr

Democracy

The system that forces men to recognize that problems are more complex than they want them to be.

Cooke

A device to insure we will be governed no better than we deserve.

Shaw

A verb, not a noun; a process, not an achievement.

It gives citizens the right to make the wrong choice.

It is a system that enables people to choose their own catastrophe.

Meriesen

The art of running the circus for the monkey cage.

Democracy is where the odd man is the Holy Ghost.

John Sellen

We've been trusting the people for 150 years, but every so often they give us a hell of a scare.

"Call Me Madam"

It is based on the conviction there are extraordinary possibilities in ordinary people.

Fosdick

Democracy (cont.)

The worst of all possible governments—except all the others.

Winston Churchill

Departures

Departure
Assures no
Return
Therefore
When we part
Say no
Farewell word
But hold me
In your heart
With smiles
Not sighs
For in deep love
There can be no
Goodbyes

Whitin Badger

Destiny

The relentless logic of each day we live.

Giraudoux

A fool's excuse for failure.

Cooke

Dimensions

To know the square-root of enticing charms
The fragile distance between truth and lies
The actual space within the open arms
The length of trust deep in the candid eyes
To know the height of folly left behind
The false horizons wistful dreams impart
The width of doorways to the closing mind
The depth of shadow in the secret heart
To know when absence crowds the world and when
The final moment to extrapolate
The rising falling curves of love and then
At last to know dimensions aggregate
The latitude and longitude of breath
The imminence and eminence of death

Whitin Badger

Diplomacy

The art of saying the nastiest thing in the nicest way.

Isaac Goldberg

There are three species of creature who when they seem coming are going, when they seem to be going they come: diplomats, women, and crabs.

John Hammond

A diplomat is a man who always remembers a woman's birthday and never her age.

Robert Frost

Blackmail is diplomacy's maiden name.

Cooke

Dirt

Matter out of place.

Discussion

The vacuum that fills a vacuum.

John Galbraith

Doubt

When you're in doubt, don't.

Winston Churchill

Dogs

They are better than human beings because they know but do not tell.

Emily Dickinson

The principal difference between dog and man: if you pick up a starving dog, he will not bite you.

Dogs look up to us; cats look down on us; but pigs consider us their equals.

Winston Churchill

I wish I were a movie star because I like to sing and dance and be in the movies. At night I would be a dog.

seven-year-old boy

Drunk

When you can't lie down on the floor without holding on.

Dean Martin

Education

It gets you where you can start to learn.

George Aiken

It is what you get from reading the fine print, while experience is what you get from not reading it.

Ann Landers

A good education is usually harmful to a dancer.

Agnes De Mille

The lack of education is an extraordinary handicap when one is being offensive.

Josephine Tey

I don't want to read; it makes me feel petunia.

6th grade student

An educational toy: one designed to adjust the child to live in the world of today—any way he puts it together is wrong.

El Paso Times

Egoist

A man who believes if he hadn't been born, people would wonder why.

Don Post

Electricity

The power that causes all natural phenomena not known to be caused by something else.

Bierce

Elegance

That brief moment of glory between the crudeness of youth and the confusion of old age.

Cooke

Encounter

Remember one
Bright jeweled day
When love first wept
Then laughed
And loved again,
An emerald wind
Swept opal skies
And diamond sunbeams
Burned through sapphire rain

Remember one brocaded hour
The silken air
And satin sheen
Of dawn,
When love held love
In velvet arms
And all the threadbare memories
Were gone

Whitin Badger

Enthusiasm

When imagination gets the better of judgment.

William Warburton

Envy

The sincerest form of flattery.

Cooke

The selfish man's sadness.

Cooke

Epitaph

"Major John Pitcairn, fatally wounded in the Battle of Bunker Hill, was carried from the field on the back of his son, who kissed him and returned to duty."

On the tombstone in Christ Church, Boston

Eternity

To be remembered is to be in light
And air immortalized, in tone and touch
Distilled; and held in subtle auras such
As smiling, the falling snow, the circling flight
Of birds, the haunting distance in the bars
Of color which the crystal prism frees,
The turning wind, the silence under trees,
A sense of angels in the wake of stars.
Worlds wear away, but you are always you,
And having loved you I am not alone
And cannot mind just how or when or where
The shadow falls. For this of love is true:
Once held within the hand, forever known,
Once entered in the heart, forever there.

Whitin Badger

Excuse

A good excuse is a bad reason.

Exhilaration

The feeling you get just after a great idea hits you, and just before you realize what's wrong with it.

Kiplinger Magazine

Exit

Every exit is an entrance somewhere else.
"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead"

When in a stillness of the heart and mind
The future fades and folly frames the past,
When constant searching can no longer find
Some solace for regret, and when at last
In sleepless hours invaded by despair,
When length of night exceeds the length of day,
Heart and mind are ruefully aware
Of time destroyed and loving turned away.
Then for what errant reason to survive
The iridescent treacheries of youth,
And then in gray maturity arrive
With only wanton wisdom and the truth
So lately learned, so lately understood:
The unicorn waits in a darkening wood.

Whitin Badger

Experience

Redeemed innocence in action.

William Blake

Like the stern lights of a ship, experience illumines only the track it has passed.

Coleridge

It is the comb which nature gives you after you are bald.

Belgian proverb

Expert

He knows just enough to make the right mistakes.

Cooke

He knows tomorrow why what he predicted yesterday isn't happening today.

Cooke

Exploration

At the end of it we will arrive where we started and know the place for the first time.

Little Gidding

Evil

All that is required for evil to triumph is for good men to remain silent.

Edmund Burke

One should keep oneself five yards from a carriage, ten yards from a horse, a hundred yards from an elephant. But the distance one should keep from a wicked man cannot be measured.

Indian proverb

When choosing between evils I always like to try the one I've never tried before.

Mae West

Faith

Illogical belief in the impossible.

H.L. Mencken

The substance of things hoped for; the conviction of things not seen.

Bible

Fame

It usually comes to those who are thinking about something else.

Oliver Wendell Holmes

Fame (cont.)

The five stages of fame in Hollywood:
1. Who is Jones?
2. Can we save money if we use Jones?
3. Get me Jones!
4. Get me a Jones type.
5. Who is Jones?

Michel Lewson

Fanatic

A man who knows what the Lord would do if He knew the facts of the case.

Mr. Dooley

Fate

The accidents that happen.

Cooke

The sincerest form of flattery.

Cooke

Fidelity

Remember
Whenever we must part
Love
Will need
No
Sentinels

Fidelity
Is of the heart
Not
Of the mind
Or
Genitals

Whitin Badger

Freedom

The chance to be better.

Camus

The first act of freedom is to choose it.

William James

When you have nothing left to lose.

Janis Joplin

Divine unrest.

Bruce Catton

Forever

Until next time.

Cooke

Fortitude

Philosophy in action.

Cooke

Friends

There are three faithful friends, an old wife, an old dog and ready money.

Franklin

There is no man so friendless that he cannot find a friend sincere enough to tell him disagreeable truths.

Edward Bulwer-Lytton

Future

Never think about the future. It comes soon enough.

Albert Einstein

It usually arrives before we're ready for it.

Arnold H. Glasow

Generosity

Generosity is the urge to do more than your share. Integrity is the compulsion to do more than your share.

Cooke

In giving till it hurts, some people are extremely sensitive to pain.

The hand that gives, gathers.

James Howell

What I gave I have; what I spent I had. What I left, I lost by not giving it.

Westminster Abbey tomb

The bird of paradise alights only upon the hand that does not grasp.

John Berry

Genius

The ability to do the right thing the first time.

Elbert Hubbard

Talent is what you possess; genius is what possesses you.

Malcolm Cowley

Talent without genius is nothing much; genius without talent is nothing at all.

Paul Valery

Golden Mean

Just enough of a good thing is always too little.

Halifax

Less than you want and more than you'll get.

Cooke

Government

Efficient government is tyranny.

Harry Truman

In bad government, the lightest things swim to the top.

Benjamin Franklin

The best government: benevolent tyranny tempered by occasional assassination.

Voltaire

In business, or in government, each employee rises to his level of incompetence.

Laurence Peter

Woodrow Wilson was not trying to make a better government for men, but a government for better men.

Clemenceau

God

A dangerous servant and a fearful master.

George Washington

A comedian playing to an audience afraid to laugh.

Voltaire

God sent meat; the devil sent cooks.

Thomas Delaney

God and other artists are always a little obscure.

Wilde

The Lord is a shoving leopard (Spooner's original "Spoonerism").

Rev. William Spooner

The Lord is sophisticated, but not malicious.

Albert Einstein

God (cont.)

A little girl told her teacher she was going to draw a picture of God. The teacher said, "But Mary, no one knows what God looks like." "They will when I get through."

The terrible obligation of the acorn to yield unto Him the oak tree.

Isak Dinesen

Gossip

If you haven't anything nice to say about anybody, come sit by me.

Alice Roosevelt Longworth

Habit

The best of servants, the worst of masters.

Nathaniel Emmons

Habit is not to be flung out of the window by any man, but coaxed downstairs a step at a time.

Mark Twain

Happiness

If I were
You
And you were
Me
And we were young
Together

Would you love
Me
Would I love
You
In any kind of
Weather?

Would you be
True
Would I be
True
If we went
A-Maying?

Or would we love
A little while
And then
Perhaps
Go straying?

But I am
I
And you are
You
And here we are
Together

Let's say it's
May
And love
Today
And pray for
Sunny weather

Whitin Badger

Health and a poor memory.

Albert Schweitzer

Happiness (cont.)

Having a little string onto which things will attach themselves.

Virginia Woolf

Doing good is the only certainly happy action of a man's life.

Philip Sidney

It depends on where you stop your story.

H.G. Wells

A way station between too little and too much.

Finding your glasses soon enough to remember why you wanted them.

Cooke

The happiest people are those who are too busy to notice whether they are or not.

William Feather

When asked by his daughter, "What is your view of happiness?" Karl Marx replied: "Struggle!"

No man is happy unless he believes he is.

Publilius Syrus

Happiness is a perfume you cannot pour on others without getting a few drops on yourself.

Emerson

Happiness is having a scratch for every itch.

Ogden Nash

"Your earth is so beautifully imperfect. It is much happier than you know . . ."

"Visit to a Small Planet"

Heaven and Hell

In Heaven,

The English are the cops
The French are the cooks
The Germans are the mechanics
The Italians are the lovers
The Russians are the poets
The Americans are the inventors
and it's all organized by the Swiss.

In Hell,

The English are the cooks
The French are the mechanics
The Germans are the cops
The Swiss are the lovers
The Russians are the inventors
The Americans are the poets
and it's all organized by the Italians.

seen on a wall in Greenwich Village

Hero

A celebrity who did something.

New York City student

Heredity

Stored environment.

Luther Burbank

Highbrow

A person educated beyond his intelligence.

Brandon Matthew

History

The first lesson of history is that evil is good.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

History (cont.)

Very nearly everything in history didn't happen.

Agreed upon lies.

Cooke

An account, mostly false, of events mostly unimportant, brought about by rulers mostly knaves, and soldiers mostly fools.

Ambrose Bierce

History repeats itself: the first time as tragedy, the second time as comedy.

Karl Marx

One age cannot be completely understood if all the others are not understood. The song of history can only be sung as a whole.

Ortega y Gasset

Hollywood

The ultimate distillation of the unfit.

Cooke

Where the inmates are in charge of the asylum.

Stallings

Honesty

To be honest is nothing; the reputation of it is all.

William Congreve

Toilet-trained greed.

Cooke

The shortest and surest way to live with honor is to be in reality what we would appear to be.

Socrates

Hope

I never was one to be put down by fate
Or by defaulting miracle dismayed,
And even when by circumstance betrayed,
Always so sure of answers, soon or late;
So sure the darkening road could never end
In shadow deeper than eclipse of sun,
For ever since the journey was begun
There lay in wait around some sudden bend
A realm of diamond air and asphodel;
So sure that love would turn once more, and while
The fragile hand reached out, the eyes would smile.
With hollow sound of falling and slow bell
My world has gone to earth and left to me
The dark and Hope, my mortal enemy.

Whitin Badger

Everything that is done in the world is done by hope.

Martin Luther

Without hope it is impossible to find the unhoped for.

Heraclitus of Ephesus

The last refuge of the defeated.

Hope is reality's seventh veil.

Cooke

Blessed is he who expects nothing, for he shall never be disappointed.

Alexander Pope

Hope (cont.)

Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see the shadow.

Helen Keller

It is not the end of joy that makes old age so sad, but the end of hope.

Jean Paul Richter

Sometimes the light at the end of the tunnel is an oncoming train.

Lou Holtz

The most glorious form of prayer.

Cooke

Humility

To stay within the bounds of truth.

Saint Teresa

Ideal

A principle you can safely abandon.

Cooke

Idiot

Someone who differs with you.

Cooke

Ignorance

Acceptable only when it is worn lightly.

Cooke

Nothing is so firmly believed as what we least know.

Michel de Montaigne

Imitation

The sincerest form of TV.

Fred Allen

If you can't imitate him, don't copy him.

Yogi Berra

Immorality

The morality of those who have a better time.

H.L. Mencken

Everything I like to do is immoral, illegal, or fattening.

Alexander Woollcott

Impossibility

Nothing is impossible for the man who doesn't have to do it himself.

Weiler

Individuality

The final Faustian bribe.

Cooke

Inferiority

No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.

Eleanor Roosevelt

Inflation

A nickel isn't worth a dime any more.

Yogi Berra

Innocence

As innocent as a rainbow.

"Jumpers"

Intellectual

A man whose mind watches itself.

Camus

Intellectual (cont.)

A man who takes more words than necessary to tell more than he knows.

Eisenhower

Little minds are interested in the extraordinary; great minds in the commonplace.

Elbert Hubbard

The more intelligent a man is, the more originality he discovers in men.

Blaise Pascal

Journalism

To succeed in journalism, never lose your sense of the superficial.

Lord Beaverbrook

Journalists: irresponsible stenographers.

Cooke

Justice

The constant effort to render unto every man his due.

Justinian

The charity of the indifferent.

Cooke

Laughter

The wrong way
To lose a day
Then at night
You fight
Some kind of weeping
Before sleeping
Then after—
Trial by laughter

Whitin Badger

The shortest distance between two people.

Victor Borge

Law

If anything can go wrong, it will; and when things just can't get any worse, they will.

Chisholm

When two trains approach each other at a crossing, they shall come to a full stop and neither shall start till the other has gone.

Kansas law

Lawyers

Why don't sharks bite lawyers? Professional courtesy.

Wall Street Journal

Legend

A lie which has achieved the dignity of age.

Winston Churchill

Liberal

A man who leaves the room when the fight begins.

Heywood Broun

If a liberal doesn't understand something he supports it. If he does understand something, he opposes it.

An American liberal is a man who approves of foreign affairs.

Cooke

Liberty

The virgin everybody is trying to deflower.

John Adams

Liberty (cont.)

The latitude the powerful accord to the weak.

Justice Learned

Liberty means responsibility. That is why most men dread it.

George Bernard Shaw

Lies

There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and statistics.

Disraeli

Truth is lies in masquerade.

Lord Byron

Life

No parking, baby! No parking on the dance floor!

Midnight Star

What happens to us while we're making other plans.

Norman La Mance

A series of choices you'd rather not make.

Cooke

The main thing in life is to be human.

Pablo Casals

You've got to be careful if you don't know where you're going. You may not get there.

Yogi Berra

It is a funny thing about life; if you refuse to accept anything but the best, you very often get it.

Somerset Maugham

It is the flash of a firefly at night. It is the breath of a buffalo in the winter wind. It is the little shadow that runs across the grass and loses itself in the sunset.

"Teahouse of the August Moon"

Human life is like a froward child that must be played with and humored a little to keep it quiet until it falls asleep.

William Temple

"If you had your life to live over, what would you do differently?" "I'd live over a saloon."

W.C. Fields

The great use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it.

William James

Life is a harpstring forever waiting to be plucked.

Hebrew poet Bealik

Life is a comedy to the man who thinks; a tragedy to the man who feels.

Walpole

The hardest thing in life is learning which bridge to cross and which to burn.

David Russell

Life is short, art is long, opportunity fleeing, experience treacherous, judgment difficult.

Hippocrates

The astonishment of living.

Enid Bagnold

Life must be lived forwards, but can only be understood backwards.

Soren Kierkegaard

Life (cont.)

When I do long to touch the past once more
With mind and heart, and hands now strong enough
To hold in safety what I hurt before,
And tongue now gentle that when once too rough
Spoke crookedly or lied or left unsaid
The thousand tender things it might have told,
I know true peace is only for the dead
And reaching back not even for the old.
There are no margins to eternity,
My world turns on, the sun burns out each day,
And living is my dark reality.
Yet through the shade bright spirits wing my way,
And when I dream I keep great company,
The loved and gone I keep, and they keep me.

Whitin Badger

Literature

An orchestration of platitudes.

Thornton Wilder

The dreary cemetery of literature, that vague jargon of our time when we have a vocabulary of everything and exact ideas about nothing.

T.S. Eliot

Where the story is, the characters will gather.

Isak Dinesen

Jane Austen is without genius, wit or knowledge of the world.

Charlotte Bronte

Chaucer is obscene and contemptible. He owes his celebrity only to his antiquity.

Byron

Dickens—one must have a heart of stone to read the death of Little Nell without laughing.

Oscar Wilde

T.S. Eliot—an amiable fellow with little to say.

H.L. Mencken

Emerson is a gap-toothed and hoary-headed ape.

Swinburne

Hamlet—a vulgar and barbarous drama, the work of a drunken savage.

Voltaire

Iago—Oh, he's just the man who got on the wrong bus.

Ralph Richardson

Ibsen, that typical old maid.

Nietzsche

Henry James—he chews off more than he bites.

Henry Adams

Dorothy Parker—a combination of Little Nell and Lady Macbeth.

Alexander Woollcott

Shakespeare cannot be recognized either as a great genius or even as an average writer.

Tolstoi

Shaw—an Irish smut dealer.

Antony Comstock

Literature (cont.)

Shelley—a lewd vegetarian.

Kingsley

Losing

If you're a good loser, you keep on losing.

Paul Richards

Love

Unless you love someone, nothing else makes any sense.

e.e. cummings

To love is to place our happiness in the happiness of another.

Gottfried Leibnitz

Luck

One half of success.

Hindu proverb

A lazy man is never lucky.

Persian proverb

The residue of design.

Branch Rickey

He's the kind of guy who would catch Lady Godiva at a dress rehearsal.

Bugs Baer

Luxury

Be sure the lap of luxury doesn't stand up.

Auber

Machination

The method employed by one's opponents in baffling one's open and honorable efforts to do the right thing.

Ambrose Bierce

Mankind

Every man is as God made him and sometimes worse.

Don Quixote

Beings in search of meaning.

Plato

An instrument for complicating the universe.

Cooke

Man is of risen apes, not fallen angels: a mathematical improbability designed for storm and changes.

Robert Ardrey

A torch blown in the wind.

Bussy D'Ambois

The most interesting chaos in history.

Nietzsche

Man is what he believes.

Anton Chekhov

Man is the only animal that blushes—or needs to.

Mark Twain

Man cannot learn truths which are too complicated and he forgets truths which are too simple.

Rebecca West

A man usually has two reasons for doing a thing: one that sounds good—and the real one.

J.P. Morgan

He is the only animal who pretends he is thinking of other things while he is eating.

Robert Lynd

Mankind (cont.)

Many a man has a bonfire in his heart and none comes to warm himself at it.

Vincent Van Gogh

The strongest man is the one who stands most alone.

Henrik Ibsen

You can't tell a man anything, you can only help him find it himself.

Galileo

The more I see of them, the more I like dogs.

Mme. de Stael

Every man will dispute with great good humor only a subject he's not interested in.

Samuel Johnson

That man is right who is most closely in league with the future.

Ibsen

Man was created last, after God acquired expertise.

Cooke

Don't jump on a man unless he is down.

Mr. Dooley

If your neighbor's house catches fire, bring water for your own.

African saying

We're all mice in the same hole: if we don't meet going in, we meet going out.

African proverb

If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer.

Thoreau

Man is immortal not because he alone among creatures has an inexhaustible voice, but because he has a soul, a spirit capable of compassion and sacrifice and endurance.

William Faulkner

Manners

The test of good manners is to put up with bad ones.

If you bow at all, bow low.

Chinese proverb

Manners are minor morals.

Cooke

Everybody knows the longer you wear pearls the more real they become. Well, don't manners?

"Mad Woman of Chaillot"

Marriage

The mistake every man should make.

George Jessel

Marriage: same bed, different dreams.

Chinese proverb

Next to the danger of committing a fault is seeing it in your husband.

Cooke

Don't marry a man to reform him, that's what prisons are for.

Mae West

I married beneath me; all women do.

Nancy Astor

Marriage (cont.)

The best way to keep your wife from listening is to tell her something.

Cooke

My wife is of ancient lineage—directly descended from Genghis Khan.

"Shot in the Dark"

I'm glad I'm not a man, for if I were, I'd be obliged to marry a woman.

Mme. de Stael

Every woman should marry—and no man.

Disraeli

Every woman is entitled to a middle husband she can forget.

Adele Rogers St. John

Being divorced is like being hit by a Mack truck: If you live through it, you start looking very carefully to the right and left.

Jean Kerr

Perfect marriage—a blind wife and a deaf husband.

Montaigne

An ideal wife—a virgin in the terminal stages of nymphomania.

Dennis Bagley

After a domestic quarrel, a son asked his father, "Daddy, how did you meet Mother?" "I took a thorn out of her paw."

Fort Worth Star Telegraph

Women were created uncertain to keep men from being certain.

Cooke

To be called as good as a man, a woman must be twice as intelligent and work twice as hard. Fortunately this is not difficult.

Time Magazine

A highbrow is a man who has found something more interesting than a woman.

Edgar Wallace

In the duel of sex, woman fights from a dreadnought and man from an open raft.

H.L. Mencken

Women see the relation of objects to themselves; men see the relation of themselves to objects.

Cooke

Behind every great man is a woman with nothing to wear.

Glickman

If a woman wants to hold a man, she has merely to appeal to what is worst in him.

Oscar Wilde

A lady is a woman who ignores what a man says when he is not being a gentleman.

Cooke

A man who won't lie to a woman has very little consideration for her feelings.

Miller

When a man wants to be a woman, he means it; when a woman wants to be a man, she means she wants that, *too.*

Cooke

Marriage (cont.)

When women are made equal to men, they become their superiors.

Socrates

A man's home on the outside may seem to be a castle; but inside, it is more often his nursery.

Clare Boothe Luce

A man in love is incomplete until he marries. Then he's finished.

Zsa Zsa Gabor

If you're afraid of loneliness, don't marry.

Chekhov

For those who are shocked when a non-virgin bride wants to wear white—what would you suggest? "Tattletale gray?"

Dear Abby

Masterpiece

Something you don't understand.

Providence high school student.

Meaning

Man's revenge on chaos.

Cooke

Men and Women

There is a time in the affairs of women which if taken at its full, leads . . . God knows where!

Lord Byron

Men are not a reasoning or reasonable sex.

Margaret Thatcher

A woman's advice is not worth much, but the man who won't take it is a fool.

Don Quixote

No male ever gets enough sympathy, no female ever gets enough understanding.

Cooke

Man is always trying to create a woman who will fill his needs, and make her untrue to herself.

Rank

Ask any man "Where did you buy those pork chops?" and he will reply, "At the supermarket." Ask a woman and she says, "Why? What's the matter with them?"

Cooke

When asked "What is your wife like?" a man replied, "Compared to what?"

Mind

A great thing to have as long as you don't have to use it.

St. Louis catcher Tim McCarvey

A mind is like a parachute—it only functions when open.

Lord Thomas Dewar

Mirror

A mirror is everybody's best friend.

Yiddish saying

Miser

The best of all possible ancestors.

Cooke

Misfortune

When asked the difference between a misfortune and a calamity, Disraeli answered, "If Gladstone fell into the Thames, that would be a misfortune; if he were rescued, that would be a calamity."

Moderation

The last defense of the aging.

Cooke

Money

Money costs too much.

Emerson

A terrible master but a wonderful servant

P.T. Barnum

To make money one must never pay as much for anything as he thinks it is worth.

"Money isn't everything." "You must be mad!"

Sometimes you can flatter the poor enough; the rich, never.

Cooke

Society is made up of two classes: those who have more dinners than appetite and those who have more appetites than dinners.

Chambort

The real backbone of any country is the people who are not too rich to care and not too poor to know.

Cooke

The theatre is a great equalizer; it's the only place where the poor can look down on the rich.

Will Rogers

If you put all the world's economists end to end, they still wouldn't reach a conclusion.

Shaw

You can never be too rich or too thin.

Duchess of Windsor

People are always willing to pay too much for what they want and too little for what they need.

Cooke

Mot

A witty or penetrating saying which is just true enough to make you think and just false enough to make you laugh.

Cooke

Music

Without music, life would be a mistake.

Nietzsche

Any music worth playing at all is worth playing badly.

Cardinal Newman

Music is the most disagreeable and the most widely beloved of all noises.

Theophile Gautier

Music (cont.)

Jazz is persecuted chamber music.

Virgil Thomson

A guitar doesn't sound little, it sounds from afar.

Stravinsky

There is a want of truth in wind instruments.

Beethoven—The upsetting of a bag of nails with here and there a dropped hammer.

Ruskin

Brahms—a giftless bastard.

Tchaikovsky

Wagner's music is better than it sounds.

Mark Twain

Opera

Nobody really sings in opera; they just make loud noises.

Galli Curci

Opera is where a man is stabbed in the back and instead of bleeding he sings.

Judy Canova

People are wrong when they say the opera isn't what it used to be. It is what it used to be. That's the trouble with it.

Noel Coward

Opinion

Opinion is that exercise of the human will which helps us to make a decision without information.

John Erskine

Optimist

The optimist sees the doughnut; the pessimist sees the hole.

Woodrow Wilson

The optimist proclaims we live in the best of all possible worlds. The pessimist fears this is true.

James Branch Cabell

Someone who has not yet got the bad news.

Tom Kekones

An optimist is a man who thinks this is the best of all possible worlds; a pessimist is a man who knows it is.

Robert Oppenheimer

Orgasm

Laughter of the loins.

Mickey Rooney

Pacifist

A militarist with a conscience.

Painting

The art of protecting flat surfaces from the weather and exposing them to the critics.

Ambrose Bierce

The painter's whole morality consists in keeping his brushes clean and getting up in the morning.

Virgil

Painting is silent poetry.

Simonides

Parting

Tears in the eyes, the trembling of a hand
Belong now to another, happier time,
A day long gone, when we were wont to climb
The heights to see the Spring come in the land.
Mine is an everlasting sorrow which will stand
Dull monument to reason and to rhyme,
Mine is an anguish exquisite, more fine
Than the colors of the bow, the sifting sand.
Spring comes again, the jonquil and the rose
Wax heavy on the stem and seem so near
To Beauty's heart. And yet so close
To mine that though unwilling I am forced to bear
The memory of your loveliness, a barren pose
Of happiness, with each succeeding year.

Whitin Badger

Return not to me after lengthy days
Unless you bear honor and a love
Deeper than lip and kindled eye can prove,
Strong with understanding which outstays
Pure passion, yet with eagerness obeys
The beating heart. With your first kiss remove
My fears and at your touch place me above
Suspicion and the waste of little ways.
Short is the reign of all erotic kings
And short the prime of ripeness in the rind
Yet come not back to me if we must part,
For this I know above all earthly things:
Long lies a shadow on the brilliant mind
And longer still upon the foolish heart.

Whitin Badger

Past

Those who can't remember the past are bound to repeat it.

Santayana

One thing about the past; it's likely to last.
Some of it is horrid and some sublime
And there's more of it all the time.

Ogden Nash

Patience

A handful of patience is worth more than a bushel of brains.

Dutch proverb

Patience is a minor form of despair.

Ambrose Bierce

Patriotism

The first resort of a scoundrel.

Samuel Johnson

No man can be a patriot on an empty stomach.

W.C. Brann

Perfection

The greed of the idealist.

Cooke

If everything is going well, you've obviously overlooked something.

Perfection consists not in doing extraordinary things, but in doing ordinary things extraordinarily well.

Antoine Arnauld

Trifles make perfection but perfection is no trifle.

Michelangelo

Pessimist

Someone who must deal with an optimist.

Cooke

Philosophy

Having a problem for every solution.

Trying to find a black cat at midnight in a dark room where he doesn't happen to be.

Irwin Edman

Philosophy is the last refuge of the defeated.

Cooke

Unintelligible answers to insoluble problems.

Henry Adams

They reckon ill who leave me out;
When me they fly, I am the wings!

Emerson, from the Greek

Pitiful

The state of an imaginary enemy after an encounter with oneself.

Ambrose Bierce

His trouble is that he is always weeping on his own shoulder.

Cooke.

Plato

A bore.

Nietzsche

A man without a classical education.

Irwin Edman

Poetry

Poetry brings truth up to date.

William Carlos Williams

Great poetry always sounds as if you had just said it.

Cooke

Politeness

Politeness makes us endurable to each other

The end of passion.

Bill Veech

It is the art of choosing among your thoughts.

Mme. de Stael

It reduces vice to a system which will not shock society.

Walpole

Politician

A man who would circumvent God.

Hamlet

A man who promises to build a bridge where there is no river.

Khrushchev

A statesman is a dead politician.

Harry Truman

Politics is the art of the next best.

Bismarck

I have come to the conclusion that politics are too serious a matter to be left to the politicians.

Charles de Gaulle

Politician (cont.)

Politics is war without bloodshed; war is politics with bloodshed.

Mao Tse-tung

Statesmanship is the ability to bear well the troubles of the less privileged.

Politicians should utter words that are tender and gentle; tomorrow they may have to eat them.

Udall

Campaign promise—what a politician says he didn't say the next day.

Cooke

A successful leader promises softer toilet paper than his opponent.

You-all gits along by goin' along.

Sam Rayburn

If you want a friend in Washington, get a dog.

Harry Truman

Positive

Mistaken at the top of one's lungs.

Ambrose Bierce

Possible

Anything is possible that you can get someone else to do.

Cooke

Power

The ultimate aphrodisiac.

Kissinger

The ability to protect yourself from your wrong decisions.

Cooke

Praise

So long as men praise you, you can only be sure that you are not yet on your own true path.

Nietzsche

The trouble with most of us is that we would rather be ruined by praise than saved by criticism.

Norman Vincent Peale

Prayer

A longing of the soul.

Gandhi

Lord, grant me that I may always desire more than I can accomplish.

Michelangelo

Oh lawd help me understand you ain't gwine let nothin' come my way you and me can't handle together.

Reader's Digest

Great Spirit: Grant that I may not criticize my neighbor until I have walked a mile in his moccasins.

American Indian prayer

To run when I can, to go when I cannot run, to creep when I cannot go.

John Bunyan

For the freedom of our land and the challenge which that freedom brings, we thank thee, our heavenly father.

Pilgrims' Thanksgiving prayer

Prayer (cont.)

God grant me the serenity
To accept the things I cannot change;
The courage to change the things I can;
And the wisdom to know the difference.

Reinhold Niebuhr

To the storms to come, and the stars coming after.

Mary Windling

Prejudice

An opinion with no visible means of support.

Ambrose Bierce

Pride

Pride is the idea God had when he created man.

Isak Dinesen

Problem

Let us leave a few problems for our children to solve, otherwise they might be so bored.

Bismarck

A problem is an opportunity in work clothes.

Procrastination

The art of keeping up with yesterday.

Don Marquis

Professional

A professional is someone who thinks that if something is worth doing, it's worth doing well; an amateur thinks if something is worth doing, it's worth doing badly.

Robert Littell

One who does his best work when he feels the least like working.

Frank Lloyd Wright

Profit

Honor and profit lie not in one sack.

George Herbert

He profits most who serves best.

Akron Rotary Club

Progress

When a cannibal uses a fork.

Cooke

Providence

It's always on the side of the big battalions.

Mme. de Sévigné

Providence is for fools, drunkards and the United States.

Bismarck

Psychiatry

A neurotic is a man who builds a castle in the air, a psychotic is the man who lives in it, a psychiatrist is the man who collects the rent.

Anyone who sees a psychiatrist ought to have his head examined.

Sam Goldwyn

Public Office

The last refuge of the incompetent.

Boise Penrose

Punctuality

The art of wasting only your own time.

Franklin P. Jones

Quaint

Ugly without charm.

Rainbow

As innocent as a rainbow.

"Jumpers"

Raspberry

In Thailand it is called Impulsive Red.

Reactionary

A somnambulist walking backward.

Franklin Roosevelt

Reason

The triumph of reason is to get on well with those who possess none.

Voltaire

Religion

The insistence on finding the eternal in the accidental.

To sneeze in a Catholic church is not allergy; it's Protestant malice.

Cooke

I read the Book of Job last night: I don't think God comes out well in it.

Virginia Woolf

Reputation

You probably wouldn't worry about what people think of you if you could know how seldom they do.

Olin Miller

You can't build up a reputation on what you are going to do.

Henry Ford

Resignation

What is called resignation is confirmed desperation.

Thoreau

Right

Always do right. This will gratify some people, and astonish the rest.

Salad

Never eat the stuff; it makes your bones soft.

Leo Durocher

Science

Scientists are the Peeping Toms at the keyhole of eternity.

Arthur Koestler

Every great scientific truth goes through three stages. First, people say it conflicts with the Bible. Next, they say it has been discovered before. Finally, they say they have always believed it.

Louis Agassiz

It would take fifty people working day and night for 200 years to make the same mistakes that an electronic computer could make in only two seconds.

Parts Pups

Secret

Three may keep a secret, if two of them are dead.

Benjamin Franklin

Segregation

The offspring of illicit intercourse between justice and immorality.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Senses

Sounds are remembered—
Soft breathing in the night
Tears and bells and laughter
Footfalls fading in the dawn
The closing of a door.

Shadows are remembered—
Beneath a tree where someone smiling stood
On stairs that lead up to an empty room
On slanting headstones laced with snow
And over dreams that died so silently.

By those long lost in love
Or sore afraid
Or left alone,
Touch is remembered . . .

Whitin Badger

Sex

Sex is the substitute religion of the twentieth century.

Malcolm Muggeridge

Sexual congress: its pleasure is momentary, the position is ridiculous, and the expense is damnable.

Lord Chesterfield.

Unless there is some emotional tie, I'd rather play tennis.

Bianca Jagger

Sex appeal is 50% what you've got and 50% what people think you've got.

Sophia Loren

Sex becomes adultery only if it lasts more than twenty minutes.

British journal poll

We may eventually come to realize that chastity is no more a virtue than malnutrition.

Alex Comfort

The only unnatural sex act is one which you cannot perform.

Kinsey Report

The most fun I've ever had without laughing.

Woody Allen

Erotica is pornography that doesn't turn you on.

Nicholson Baker

Two is company; three is an adult movie.

Never watch a woman pulling on her stockings: it's either too soon or too late.

Cooke

A virgin forest is a place where the hand of man has never set foot.

Student report

In 1631 two London printers were fined £3,000 for leaving out one word in the Bible. Their seventh commandment read: "Thou shalt commit adultery."

Shield

When you are lost in shadows, walk with me
And we may prove the dark is not profound.
For on our journey toward eternity,
Against whatever dangers may be fond,
We have a wondrous shield, a gift sublime:
The light of loving in the crypt of time.

Whitin Badger

Signs Abroad

Brussels tailor: Come in and Have a Fit

Tokyo bar: Women are Requested Not to Have Children in the Bar

Rome laundry: Ladies, Leave Your Clothes Here and Spend the Afternoon Having a Good Time

Bangkok hotel: Because of the Impropriety of Entertaining Guests of the Opposite Sex in Your Rooms, It is Suggested the Lobby be Used for That Purpose

Simplicity

Seek simplicity and distrust it.

Alfred North Whitehead

Simplicity is complexity itself.

Brancusi

Sin

If people fought sins as hard as they do middle age, earth would be a moral paradise.

Hal Boyle

An accommodating vice is better than an obstinate virtue.

Molière

Saints are sinners who keep on going.

Robert Louis Stevenson

My idea of original sin is giving up.

"The Miracle Worker"

The sin against hope—the deadliest sin and the one most indulged in.

Sin is a blunder for which you have no alibi.

Cooke

Songs for Wedding Anniversaries

1st Anniversary: "Night and Day"
50th Anniversary: "Thanks for the Memory"

1st Anniversary: "Heat Wave"
50th Anniversary: "It's Too Damned Hot"

Sorrow

You can't help the birds of sorrow flying over your head but there's no need to let them nest in your garden.

A Little Night Music

The crown of sorrow is remembering happier things.

Tennyson

Sorrow (cont.)

We are laughing
We are smiling
I am laughing
You are sighing
I am talking
You are laughing
We are smiling
We are talking
We are laughing
We are longing
We are crying
We are smiling
We are talking
We are laughing
We are dying

Whitin Badger

Sound

No matter how tired I may be
Certain sounds will lift my head
And make my heart beat fast
The whirr of wings in air
A bluejay's call
The lapping of water
On a sandy shore.

Whitin Badger

Spoonerisms

During WWI: "when the boys come home from France we'll have the hags flung out."

Referring affectionately to Queen Victoria: "the queer old dean."

Spring

An experience in immortality.

Thoreau

Spring is largely overrated, if you are already mated.

Myra Thompson

Style

The relation in art between form and content, between what a writer wants to say and what he has to say.

Cyril Connolly

Nature has good instincts but it takes an artist to carry them out.

Aristotle

Success

If you would succeed, you must not be too good.

Italian proverb

All rising to great place is by a winding stair.

Francis Bacon

The surest way not to fail is to determine to succeed.

Richard Sheridan

Nothing succeeds like success.

Be nice to everybody on your way up: you're going to see them again on the way down.

Jimmy Durante

Success (cont.)

If at first you don't succeed, you're about average.

Joan Nelson

If at first you don't succeed, try again. Then quit. No use being a damn fool about it.

W.C. Fields

Nice guys finish last.

Leo Durocher

The only problem with success is that it doesn't teach you to deal with failure.

Tommy Lasorda

The chief element of success is indecision.

Ambrose Bierce

Some people reach the top of the ladder only to find it is leaning against the wrong wall.

Calgary Herald

The wheel that squeals the loudest gets the grease.

Joseph Billings

The winner says, "I fell." The loser says, "Someone pushed me."

Cooke

For success in the theatre: speak clearly and do not bump into people.

Noel Coward

Be pretty if you can; be witty if you must; be agreeable if it kills you.

Elsie de Wolfe

Sunday Paper

The triumph of quantity over quality.

Irving Babbitt

The Supreme Court

Nine scorpions in one bottle.

Oliver Wendell Holmes

Tact

The art of making a point without making an enemy.

Newton

When Benjamin Franklin encountered an ex-mistress, who reproached him: "You have not visited me all summer," Franklin replied, "Of course not, madame, I've been waiting for the nights to grow longer."

Ten Commandments

Just enough to permit an intelligent selection, but not enough to embarrass the choice.

Choosen

The minute a thing is long and complicated, it's confusing. Whoever wrote the Ten Commandments made them short. They may not be kept but they can be understood.

Will Rogers

Thought

Thinking is the most unhealthy thing in the world. Fortunately, it is not catching.

Oscar Wilde

Most people would die sooner than think; in fact, they do so.

Bertrand Russell

Thinking only makes the heart sore.

I Ching

Thought (cont.)

Poor mind
More learning
From books
And stony brooks
Still learning

Sad heart
Not moving
A world
In evil furled
Still loving

Sweet soul
Ignoring
Mind's gain
Heart's pain
And soaring

Whitin Badger

Time

It is difficult to live in the present; ridiculous to live in the future; and impossible to live in the past.

Jim Bishop

The time you enjoy wasting is never wasted time.

Today—this Now so thin it cannot keep the Past and Future from showing through.

Donald Babcock

The years teach much which the days never know.

Emerson

I know what time is, unless you ask me.

St. Augustine

Who knows what may be stumbling in the backgrounds of time.

Schiller

Sundown—the time of day you need it most.

Cooke

Now we sit here
Tired and grey
We who were
The essence of vitality—
But we have loved
These many years away
And you are still
The meaning of the world to me

Whitin Badger

We are all immigrants in time. None of us will live all our life in the world into which we were born, and none of us will die in the world in which we worked in our maturity.

Margaret Mead

The daylight savings idea comes from an old Indian who cut off one end of his blanket and sewed it on the other to make it longer.

Clarke Sanford

Forever is until something better comes along.

Cooke

Time (cont.)

One must wait until the evening to see how splendid the day has been.

Sophocles

Just when you think tomorrow will never come, it's yesterday.

Earl Wilson

Dear Santa: I've been very nice to my sister, starting tomorrow.

Child's letter

Tomorrow is the busiest day of the year.

Spanish proverb

Someday is a sweet-sounding never.

Cooke

Due to lack of interest, tomorrow will be canceled.

Graffiti in University of California lounge

Tolerance

The virtue of a man without convictions.

Chesterton

Tragedy is when I cut my finger. Comedy is when you fall into a sewer.

Mel Brooks

There are two tragedies in life: one is not to get your heart's desire; the other is to get it.

Shaw

Tranquility

Conquered unhappiness.

David Grayson

Truth

Time's old daughter, Truth.

John Ford

What we think at any given moment.

Pirandello

There's nothing like selected truth for true evasion.

Cooke

A little sincerity is a dangerous thing, and a great deal of it is absolutely fatal.

Oscar Wilde

He who cannot lie doesn't know what the truth is.

Man has an infinite capacity for being wrong for the right reasons.

Cooke

I speak truth, not so much as I would, but as much as I dare: and I dare a little the more, as I grow older.

Montaigne

I don't care what's written about me as long as it isn't true.

Katharine Hepburn

Ultimatum

The last demand in diplomacy before resorting to concessions.

Ambrose Bierce

Understanding

The most expensive of the virtues.

University

A place where pebbles are polished and diamonds dimmed.

Ingersoll

University (cont.)

The use of a university is to make young gentlemen as unlike their fathers as possible.

Woodrow Wilson

Unlikely

The inevitable you don't expect.

Cooke

Vanity

The surest cure of vanity is loneliness.

Thomas Wolfe

Victory

You are never so near to victory as when defeated in a good cause.

Henry Ward Beecher

When you win, nothing hurts.

Joe Namath

Virtue

Virtue is its own revenge.

E.Y. Harburg

Virtue is insufficient temptation.

Shaw

If we didn't cling to the notion virtue paid, vice wouldn't be profitable.

Cooke

A virtuous character is necessary even in driving a cow.

African proverb

Waiting

When I am from you and desire is keen
I cannot write to you I cannot say
The simple word or tell the time of day
I miss you most. The long days stand between
Us and the nights are slow. In fear I lean
Upon your coming lest I overweigh
Your love for me and so do vainly pray
My Kingdom come, that I may call you Queen.
My tongue is silent in this barren time,
Yet in my heart lies all that has been said
Or sighed or sung or prophesied in tears
Or tortured into semblances of rhyme
By lovers quick and lovers long since dead
And gone to earth these many thousand years.

Whitin Badger

War

The incomparable speeder-upper of history.

Lenin

The cowardly escape from the problems of peace.

Thomas Mann

War is too serious to leave to the generals.

Clemenceau

In peace, sons bury their fathers; in war, fathers bury their sons.

Herodotus

War (cont.)

War has no fury like the noncombatant.

C.E. Montague

The next worst thing to a battle lost is a battle won.

Duke of Wellington

The only way to win a war is to make sure it never starts.

Omar Bradley

More strategic weapons will only made the rubble bounce.

Winston Churchill

We prepare for war like precocious giants and for peace like retarded pygmies.

Pearson

War would end if the dead could return.

Stanley Baldwin

Sometime they'll give a war and nobody will come.

Carl Sandburg

Wisdom

Preparation for the unlikely.

Cooke

Humans don't grow wise; they grow careful.

Hemingway

The wise man does at once what the fool does finally.

Gratian

The ability to find alternatives.

Paul Eldridge

The growth of wisdom may be gauged accurately by the decline of ill temper.

Nietzsche

A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds.

Francis Bacon

Wit

Ours is an age where stamina is the soul of wit.

Cooke

Cultural insolence.

Aristotle

Just enough truth.

Cooke

The salt of conversation, not the food.

Hazlitt

The unexpected copulation of ideas.

Samuel Johnson

Impropriety is the soul of wit.

Somerset Maugham

Wit, the charity of the disillusioned.

Cooke

A famous English admiral and a renowned English bishop had gone to school together and detested each other. Years later, the admiral, resplendent in epaulets and medals, and the bishop in full robes, met at Victoria Station. Said the bishop, "Stationmaster, on what platform is the train to Oxford?" Replied the admiral, "Platform five, Madame. But do you think that you should travel in your condition?"

Woman

God created woman and boredom ceased.

Nietzsche

Woman expects man to put her on a pedestal, then complains about his being under her feet all day.

Streitiff

The world is full of things women can't do, wouldn't do if they could, but might like to be able to do.

Cooke

Silk was invented so women could go naked in clothes.

Arab proverb

To be fair to women, never give them the benefit of the doubt.

Cooke

There are few good women who are not weary of their trade.

De la Rochefoucauld

When women kiss, it's like prize fighters shaking hands.

Nietzsche

If you want to keep a woman quiet, dress her badly.

Mrs. George Wemuss

Women approach men with the delicacy of a gourmand taking his first bite.

Cooke

A woman with true charm is one who can make a youth feel mature, an old man youthful, and a middle-aged man completely sure of himself.

Bob Talbert

The manners of women are the surest criteria by which to determine whether a republican government is practical for a nation.

John Adams

They want to stand upon their own feet—at a time of their own choosing.

Cooke

Woman is at her most objective when she is appraising another woman who has nothing she wants.

A little woman bent on revenge would defeat Destiny itself.

Nietzsche

A dress on a woman should be like an address on an envelope—something to direct the message where she wants it to go.

Hugh Allen

The surest way of keeping a woman in conversation is not to answer her.

Cooke

Work

Nothing is work unless you'd rather be doing something else.

J.M. Barnes

How do I work? I grope.

Albert Einstein

Work is the greatest thing in the world, so we should save some of it for tomorrow.

Don Herold

No one does a full day's work anymore. No one else, that is.

"Changing Times"

If you want a thing well done, don't do it yourself unless you know how.

Work (cont.)

It is better to wear out than to rust out.

Richard Cumberland

On the wall of their headquarters in Hyattsville, Maryland, the Sisters of Jesus and Mary have framed their faith in needlepoint:

Working for the Lord does not pay much
But the retirement plan is out of this world.

Youth

Bright youth passes swiftly as a thought.

Theogni

Gather ye rosebuds while you may
Old time is still a-flying.

Robert Herrick

Or if some flower lovelier than this rose
Blooms softly on a thorned articulate stem,
I have forgotten how its petals close
Upon the shining drops of dew that gem
Their satin surface and are dappling them
At dusk when day and garden must go blind,
Until light dissipates the silver phlegm
That damp and darkness ever leave behind.
Have I loved one before you, I can find
No face or voice or memory to mourn,
I have forgotten. From my willing mind
Now fade the rose the lover and the thorn.
But I remember how, when I was young,
I sang of you, not knowing what was sung.

Whitin Badger

To love you
Is to love you
Is to love you

The day is long
The day is short
The day is done

To love you
Is to love you
To love you

The dark comes down
The night comes on
And we are gone

To love you
Is to love you
Love you . . .

Whitin Badger